

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 302699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM

GENEVA: FOR JOHN THOMAS, DIRECTOR, ICEM FROM J.M. WILSON,
JR.

BANGKOK: PLEASE PASS ICEM FOR CORCOS

1. AS THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM NEARS COMPLETION, I WISH TO EXPRESS TO YOU THE DEPARTMENT'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE OUTSTANDING JOB DONE BY THE ICEM STAFFS AROUND THE WORLD IN IMPLEMENTING THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM FOR 11,000 ADDITIONAL INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. THE PROGRAM, INVOLVING A COMPLEX SYSTEM OF PRE-CHECKS, MADE IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE THESE REFUGEES DIRECTLY FROM CAMPS IN THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE TO THEIR SPONSORS IN THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERMEDIATE RESETTLEMENT CENTERS IN THE UNITED STATES, AS WAS DONE IN THE CASE OF THE EARLIER INDOCHINESE EVACUATION. OUR INABILITY TO USE RECEPTION CENTERS ADDED ENORMOUSLY TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE PROGRAM AND NECESSITATED A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO MOVE THESE REFUGEES QUICKLY.

2. THE ICEM STAFFS RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE MAGNIFICENTLY AND WE CONGRATULATE YOU FOR IT. WHILE MANY MEMBERS
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OF ICEM CONTRIBUTED TO THIS SUCCESS, I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE

WITH PARTICULAR GRATITUDE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALBERT CORCOS IN BANGKOK AND JACK BRATTON HERE IN WASHINGTON. IN THE CASE OF ALBERT CORCOS, WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL THAT HE WAS WILLING TO POSTPONE A WELL EARNED RETIREMENT TO RETURN TO BANGKOK AND HEAD UP THIS PROGRAM. I UNDERSTAND THAT JACK BRATTON IS ALSO SHORTLY SCHEDULED FOR RETIREMENT. BOTH WILL BE GOING OUT IN A BLAZE OF GLORY. THEY LEAVE BEHIND A STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF WHICH WILL BE CHALLENGING INDEED.

3. PLEASE EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO ALL OF YOUR STAFF AND, TO THESE TWO FINE OFFICERS, OUR BEST WISHES FOR A WELL EARNED AND SATISFYING RETIREMENT. KISSINGER

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